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ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

INSTRUCTIONS: Officer designations should be used in the "TO" column. Under each comment a line should be drawn across sheet and each comment numbered to correspond with the number in the "TO" column. Each officer should initial (check mark insufficient) before further routing. This Routing and Record Sheet should be returned to Registry.

FROM:				TELEPHONE	NO.	DATE
TO	ROOM NO.	DATE		OFFICER'S INITIALS	TELEPHONE	COMMENTS
		REC'D	FWD'D			
1.						Lang, Robert E.
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APPROVED FOR RELEASE ☐

DATE: 19-Aug-2009

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HEADQUARTERS

2677th REGIMENT

OFFICE OF STRATEGIC SERVICES (PROV.)

APO 512

8 June 1945

201 : Lang, Robert E.
SUBJECT: Recommendation for Award
TO : Commanding General, MPOUSA

1. Under the provisions of AR 600-45, dated 22 September, 1943, as amended, it is recommended that Robert E. Lang, 02056237, First Lieutenant, Army of the United States, Chief, Message Center, Communications Branch, Headquarters, 2677th Regiment, Office of Strategic Services (Provisional) the Bronze Star Medal for meritorious service in connection with military operations against an enemy of the United States.

2. First Lieutenant (then Second Lieutenant) Robert E. Lang was in charge of the Office of Strategic Services Message Center in Algiers, from the period 13 January, 1944, to 11 October, 1944. During April, 1944, in preparation for the Office of Strategic Services participation in operation Dragoon, the Signal Officer, 2677th Regiment, Office of Strategic Services (Provisional) determined that a method must be devised in order that intelligence could be delivered to Headquarters, Force 163 (later Seventh Army) without interruption. This must be done even during the quantity of traffic so transmitted and without giving a clue as to the time of the actual invasion. Lieutenant Lang was charged to work out the cipher phase of this problem.

Lieutenant Lang, in consultation with other interested officers, determined that a very intricate dummy traffic plan must be devised and that transmissions must be started well in advance of the planned invasion date. Working in close cooperation with Signal Intelligence Service, Allied Force Headquarters, Lieutenant Lang had installed in the Office of Strategic Services Message Center, the machine cipher to be used by Force 163 on the invasion.

It was determined that traffic should start on a twenty-four hour basis beginning at 0600 GMT, 13 July, 1944. These transmissions, which involved the assembling of from four to five thousand groups of traffic per day, and the gradual build up of "live" indicators in comparison with "dummy" indicators, continued on an uninterrupted twenty-four hour day basis through

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21 August, 1944.

The system was eminently successful, inasmuch as of the ninety-three messages so transmitted, between the period of 9 August, 1944, to 16 August, 1944, inclusive, ninety-two were received in perfect order. This was true in spite of the fact that the transmissions were one-way and no receipt was obtained for any message. These messages were processed so rapidly that, in many cases, information received from agents from Southern France, that was of urgent interest to the command of Seventh Army was received aboard the headquarters ships within two hours of the time of its original transmission by the agent in Southern France, to the Algiers radio station. This processing involved receipt of the original message by radio at the base station, twenty miles from Algiers, transmission of that message via teletype to the Message Center, its decoding there, evaluation by the Reports Board, re-encoding at the Message Center in the new cipher, transmission to the radio station via teletype, and finally, transmission over the air to the headquarters ships.

Lieutenant Lang's successful efforts in maintaining cipher security, in planning and in organizing his Message Center resulted in an uninterrupted flow of information to the command and staff of Seventh Army with the absolute minimum of delay.

As an indication of the value placed upon the work in which Lieutenant Lang played a highly important part, there are submitted herewith letters of commendation from the Director of Office of Strategic Services and the Acting Chief of Staff, G-2, Seventh Army.

3. I certify that I have personal knowledge of the meritorious service of First Lieutenant Robert E. Lang in connection with military operations against an enemy of the United States.

4. Status at time of action for which award is recommended; Was a Second Lieutenant, then First Lieutenant, Army of the United States, in charge of the Office of Strategic Services Message Center, Algiers. Lieutenant Lang is now on duty with Office of Strategic Services, China-Burma-India Theater of Operations.

5. All of First Lieutenant Robert E. Lang's action, subsequent to that for which award is recommended, has been honorable.

6. There have been no previous awards.